

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 26, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Aboriginal Education

ORIGINATOR: A. McBeath, Department Head

RESOURCE: Rosalie Cardinal, Edith Dalla Costa, Donna Leask, Hazel McKennitt,
STAFF: Marion Stone

INFORMATION

This report is intended to provide an overview of Aboriginal Education. With the inclusion of the commitment to strengthen programming for Aboriginal students within the district's priority statements, there clearly is support throughout the district for Aboriginal Education to provide services and recommend strategies that will enhance the achievement of our Aboriginal students.

Aboriginal Education today is the result of many changes that have occurred since the inception of the first Native Liaison Services. Such services have been provided to district schools since the early 1980's. Today, the staff is now located in the Centre for Education and staff numbers have increased. Much work has been spent on re-aligning the Liaison Services so that Aboriginal Education can meet more effectively the needs of schools as they strive to improve the achievement of their Aboriginal students.

Aboriginal Education staff work together with other school and district staff to better address the needs of schools in a variety of ways. Aboriginal Liaison I staff have as their focus a commitment to provide programming assistance to teachers and schools in addition to providing support to students and their families. Cultural presentations that support the curriculum, home visits, case conference mediation, and referral to community agencies are some of the ways in which they provide service to Aboriginal students, their families and schools.

Aboriginal Liaison II staff have as their focus a commitment to act as a resource to school and district staff. They work to recommend curricular resources, promote appropriate and effective classroom strategies, along with facilitating workshops aimed at meeting school and district needs pertaining to issues in Aboriginal education.

Aboriginal Education staff also participate on a variety of district projects, including a K-12 Cree Language and Culture Curriculum and an Aboriginal Resource Collection Committee. Moreover, Aboriginal Education staff continue to represent the district on a variety of community boards and committees that deal with issues impacting Aboriginal people. Maintaining these community affiliations is critical if we are to continue to build relationships with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations that provide services to Aboriginal children and their families.

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